

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Animal Control Officer Resigns Before Hearing

Town Manager Rocco Longo said this week that he will soon advertise for the position of Animal Control Officer following the resignation last week of Haley Dee Parlin.

Longo and Police Chief Mark DeLuca had called an administrative hearing last Wednesday to discuss a number of complaints against Parlin's performance on the job but she resigned before it occurred.

The embattled animal control officer had been the subject of controversy for several reasons including the conditions at the town's animal shelter, administrative issues and

conflicts with town employees and residents. She was hired by Longo for the job four and a half years ago.

Parlin said Monday that she was "just trying to do my job" and has taken a lot of verbal abuse for it.

She said she was told by Chief De Luca to turn over her animal control vehicle and keys to the shelter as well as her cell phone the previous week pending a hearing.

"This is a lightning rod position," she said. "A lot of people have made claims against me that are not true. You take your pride. You take your dignity and you walk

away."

In a related matter last Friday, Parlin filed assault and battery charges in Plymouth District Court against Anne Eldridge of Harrison Street involving an altercation between the two women two weeks ago.

Parlin claims Eldridge insisted on posting fundraising signs for the animal shelter at the town facility against Parlin's wishes and when Parlin refused Eldridge grabbed her sleeve.

"I refused to be pushed around by people any more," said Parlin this week. "I was told a long time ago by the town manager that it was a conflict

for a town employee to appear to be raising funds for the animal shelter."

Eldridge told the *Clipper* last week she had received permission from Town Clerk Nancy Oates to post the signs and Parlin refused to look at her when she tried to explain.

"I merely touched her sleeve and said, 'Haley, please just look at me and listen to what I have to say.'"

Parlin admits that the conditions at the animal shelter "got away from me" but attributes it to lack of help from the DPW and an injury she endured on the job.

Parlin reported conditions at the shelter to the Mass. Division of Occupational Safety which undertook an investigation of the animal shelter issuing a report last year citing numerous violations.

Asst. Animal Control officer Matt Riggins is covering animal control duties pending the hiring of a new full time officer.